

**From:** Edward Votypka  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 3:04pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

See attached, please.

@ûd;7;-\_\_R\*EDWARD A. VOTYPKA  
16611 Mohican Trail  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

January 25, 2002

Attorney General Mr. John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This is to voice my support for the settlement recently reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. In my opinion, this lawsuit should never have happened. The basis of antitrust laws is damage to the consumer and monopolization of the market. There was no damage to the consumer. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, has helped consumers enormously. He standardized computer software. You do not need five different programs to do something. Nor is the price exorbitant; in fact, prices for software have gone down. Microsoft put out a better product at a better price. His competitors had every chance, and still do, to put out a better product and they have not. Instead, they have gone crying to the federal government citing lack of competition. While it is true that Microsoft plays to win, so does every other firm in the IT business û indeed, in any business.

Microsoft has tried to be fair in meeting the Department of Justice demands. Microsoft has agreed to open the company up to more competition, agreeing to allow other developers more of its copyrighted code to aid in the development of third party programs; Microsoft has agreed to a uniform price list; Microsoft has agreed to disclose interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system. This is more than most companies would do.

I urge you to support this agreement and allow us to put this matter to rest.

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Sincerely,

Edward Votypka

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